

Mr. Speaker, is our government at war with our own country? This Nation has the obligation to protect our borders, and those who play the role of Benedict Arnold and help Mexico to illegally invade the United States should be held publicly accountable and dealt with by the American public. And that's just the way it is.

WALL STREET IGNORES MAIN STREET

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Dow Jones will hit a record and the Nation's economists will be doing their hosannas, but who profits when factories and businesses are closed in the United States and cheap goods made by no-rights, no-benefits, low-wage Chinese workers flood our markets?

We have an \$804 billion trade deficit. Hello?

Since 1982, \$4.5 trillion in assets have been transferred from American to foreign owners. Hello?

Wall Street thumps their golden tub for the Wal-Marts and the cigarette-peddling Altrias while record numbers of Americans are laid off, file bankruptcy, lose their homes, their health care benefits, their retirement and savings, and in some cases, their families. Why do we celebrate Wall Street when Wall Street does not celebrate Main Street?

Wall Street makes a killing while gas prices soar, health care costs skyrocket, and food prices increase. We need a new way to measure our economy, as in how many people are working at good-paying jobs and have job security, and how many have health and retirement benefits.

Let us create economic progress for all in America, not just for a privileged few.

AMNESTY IS NOT THE ANSWER

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, the most controversial issue in this illegal immigration debate is amnesty. Opponents say it rewards illegal behavior. Supporters say it is not amnesty because they pay a \$2,000 fine. Who is right?

Well, consider this analogy. Somebody robs a bank and gets away with \$1 million. Our government tells him he can keep the money, but we expect him to pay a \$2,000 fine.

Now apply that to illegal immigration. A person breaks our laws by sneaking across the border. They then commit a felony by using a fake Social Security card to get a job. Our government tells them they won't be prosecuted; rather, they can remain in this country and apply for citizenship as long as they pay a \$2,000 fine.

In both cases, the bank robber and the illegal alien get to retain the benefit of their illegal behavior merely by paying a small fine. Common sense and history tell you that rewarding illegal behavior will only encourage more of it. After granting amnesty to illegals 20 years ago, we have gone from 3 million illegals to 11 million illegals. Our government has been fooled once by this amnesty argument, let us not be fooled again.

□ 1015

MCALLEN-EDINBURG-PHARR REGION OF TEXAS

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, this week, the business periodical INC.com named the McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr region in my congressional district in Texas as its second hottest mid-size metropolitan area in the country.

When I first came to Congress nearly 10 years ago, this area was one of the poorest, economically deprived and most neglected regions of the country. It was plagued with three decades of double digit unemployment rates. I made it one of my primary goals to help curb these trends, and I am thankful to have seen that dream come true in 2006.

Today, the area is booming. The population has increased by 48 percent in 10 years. Creation of new jobs is up substantially, and the unemployment rate is now below 8 percent. Children are graduating from high school and accessing higher education, and more students are seeking advanced college degrees. I have seen the increase in Federal resources, investments in human capital and infrastructure. Thanks to business investment, job training programs and open markets, McAllen, Edinburg, and Pharr are models of achievement for the rest of the country.

The successes experienced in this region are the results of a collaborative effort by community leaders and a tremendous amount of hard work.

I congratulate all those involved in so many of the projects, conversations and planning that we had along the way. We must continue our collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life in South Texas.

OUR THRIVING ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, House Republicans took action to block tax increases on working families, seniors and small businesses by voting to pass the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005. It was an honor to join my colleagues in working to help every American family keep more of their hard-earned money. After all, Republicans know that indi-

vidual households know how to spend their own money much better than the Federal Government does.

Tax relief, along with other pro-growth policies, is helping the U.S. economy grow at a fiery pace. Recently, the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the U.S. gross domestic product, GDP, grew 4.8 percent in the first quarter of this year. Our economy has created more than 5 million good-paying jobs since August 2003, and the unemployment is lower than the average of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Despite the Democrats' efforts to paint a gloomy picture, Americans are reaping the benefits of our tax cuts and are thoroughly enjoying the success of our economic boom.

GAO PTSD REPORT RELEASE

(Mr. MICHAUD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my colleagues aware of a GAO study being released today.

GAO studied services at the Department of Defense and the VA to help identify and treat veterans of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom who may be at risk for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

GAO found only 22 percent of personnel who were at risk for PTSD were referred by DOD providers for further evaluation.

When 78 percent who were at risk do not get referrals, then this is clear the assessment system is not working. Health assessment and reassessment are absolutely the right thing to do, and I applaud DOD for these programs.

But if we are not confident that those who need further evaluation will actually receive it, what purpose does it serve?

We need early assessment, diagnosis and counseling to prevent the effects of PTSD. This Congress needs to press both DOD and VA to do a better job in helping veterans with PTSD and other mental health issues.

HONORING NORFOLK'S TOP COPS

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Today, the Fraternal Order of Police will honor two of Norfolk's own as part of their annual ceremony honoring the Nation's "top cops." Investigators Judy Hash and Earl Killmon will be recognized for their contributions in disrupting a violent drug ring and bringing a suspected cop killer to justice. What began as an investigation into the murder of a North Carolina police chief during a routine traffic stop quickly began to provide leads to individuals distributing cocaine, marijuana and ecstasy and committing acts of violence stretching over State lines.

After a 2-year investigation and thousands of man-hours on the part of Investigators Hash and Killmon, 14 drug- and violence-related arrests have been made and a cop killer now sits behind bars.

It is a privilege for me to honor the accomplishments of these outstanding members of my hometown police force on the House floor today. Because of their dedicated service of these two top cops and thousands of police officers throughout our Nation, our streets are safer for our families. For that we are all eternally grateful.

EXTENDING THE MEDICARE PART D DEADLINE

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, with only 5 days before the deadline to sign up for the Medicare drug benefit, only 9 percent of eligible New Yorkers have voluntarily signed up for it.

Why such low enrollment? Could it be that seniors have to choose among 47 plans that keep changing? It is a daunting task to tackle a moving target.

Could it be that a third of the calls answered by Medicare operators result in inaccurate information or none at all? Could there be a more clear-cut case for extending the sign-up deadline?

Clearly, the President disagrees. To him, the "D" in part D stands for "deadline." But he is not a senior or a disabled American who needs and deserves more time and for whom "D" stands for disaster.

After holding dozens of town hall meetings over the past 6 months, I join with my colleagues today in calling upon the Republicans to extend the deadline, penalty free, through the end of the year.

For nine of 10 eligible New Yorkers who haven't chosen a plan yet, but must pick from among 47 plans, another 6 months will go a long way toward helping them choose a plan that is right for them.

REPUBLICANS CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since 2003, the Bush tax cuts have helped all Americans by creating over 5.2 million jobs, reducing the unemployment rate to the lowest average in three decades, and growing the economy at a record pace. Thanks to the Home Builders Association, there is record homeownership.

Although Democrats have seen American families benefit from lower taxes, they continue to obstruct opportunities. Yesterday, House Democrats stuck to their tax-and-spend strategy.

When the House considered the tax reductions yesterday, 185 Democrats voted against this critical legislation. By voting against this bill, they clearly signaled their support for raising taxes on American families, American small businesses, and American investors.

Fortunately, House Republicans voted for this legislation so that Americans, not the Federal Government, have control over their hard-earned incomes. By passing this bill, we have helped create and ensure that our economy continues to grow, creating opportunities.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the ongoing struggle for freedom and democracy in Vietnam. As we observe Vietnam Human Rights Day, it is clear that the struggle is far from over.

The most basic freedoms we enjoy, the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the freedom of assembly, the freedom of religion, these are not available in Vietnam.

Last month, 116 Vietnamese citizens signed an "Appeal For Freedom of Political Association," and 118 citizens signed a Manifesto on Democracy and Freedom For Vietnam.

But the government crackdown began almost immediately with raids, detainments, harassment, and abuse. Those who signed these documents placed themselves and their families and their friends at a great risk for a greater good.

What a compelling reminder that while the freedoms we enjoy are not universal, the thirst for freedom most certainly is.

I urge my colleagues to speak out on behalf of these brave men and women who continue to fight for the very basic human liberty through peaceful and nonviolent methods.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 31, nays 366, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 137]

YEAS—31

Allen	Jackson-Lee	Sánchez, Linda
Baird	(TX)	T.
Brown, Corrine	Johnson, E. B.	Sanchez, Loretta
Capuano	Lowey	Schakowsky
Clay	McDermott	Stark
Crowley	Miller, George	Taylor (MS)
Doggett	Nadler	Towns
Filner	Napolitano	Wasserman
Frank (MA)	Neal (MA)	Schultz
Grijalva	Obey	Waters
Hastings (FL)	Otter	Waxman
Honda		

NAYS—366

Abercrombie	Davis (AL)	Hostettler
Ackerman	Davis (CA)	Hoyer
Aderholt	Davis (FL)	Hulshof
Akin	Davis (IL)	Hunter
Alexander	Davis (KY)	Inglis (SC)
Baca	Davis (TN)	Inslee
Bachus	Davis, Jo Ann	Israel
Baker	Davis, Tom	Issa
Baldwin	Deal (GA)	Istook
Barrett (SC)	DeFazio	Jackson (IL)
Barrow	DeGette	Jenkins
Bartlett (MD)	DeLauro	Jindal
Barton (TX)	DeLay	Johnson (CT)
Bass	Dent	Johnson, Sam
Bean	Diaz-Balart, L.	Jones (NC)
Beauprez	Diaz-Balart, M.	Jones (OH)
Becerra	Dicks	Kanjorski
Berkley	Doolittle	Kaptur
Berman	Doyle	Keller
Berry	Dreier	Kelly
Biggert	Duncan	Kennedy (MN)
Billirakis	Edwards	Kildee
Bishop (GA)	Ehlers	Kilpatrick (MI)
Bishop (NY)	Emanuel	Kind
Bishop (UT)	Emerson	King (IA)
Blackburn	Engel	King (NY)
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Kingston
Blunt	Etheridge	Kirk
Boehlert	Everett	Kline
Boehner	Farr	Knollenberg
Bonilla	Fattah	Kolbe
Bonner	Feeney	Kucinich
Bono	Ferguson	Kuhl (NY)
Boozman	Fitzpatrick (PA)	LaHood
Boren	Flake	Langevin
Boswell	Foley	Lantos
Boucher	Forbes	Larsen (WA)
Boustany	Fortenberry	Larson (CT)
Boyd	Fossella	Latham
Bradley (NH)	Fox	LaTourette
Brady (PA)	Franks (AZ)	Leach
Brady (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Lee
Brown (OH)	Galleghy	Levin
Brown (SC)	Garrett (NJ)	Lewis (CA)
Brown-Waite,	Gerlach	Lewis (GA)
Ginny	Gibbons	Lewis (KY)
Burgess	Gilchrest	Linder
Butterfield	Gillmor	LoBiondo
Buyer	Gingrey	Lofgren, Zoe
Calvert	Gohmert	Lucas
Camp (MI)	Gonzalez	Lungren, Daniel
Campbell (CA)	Goode	E.
Cannon	Goodlatte	Lynch
Cantor	Gordon	Maloney
Capito	Granger	Manzullo
Capps	Graves	Marchant
Cardin	Green (WI)	Markey
Carnahan	Green, Al	Marshall
Carson	Green, Gene	Matheson
Carter	Gutierrez	Matsui
Case	Gutknecht	McCarthy
Castle	Hall	McCaul (TX)
Chabot	Harman	McCollum (MN)
Chandler	Harris	McCotter
Chocola	Hart	McCrery
Cleaver	Hastings (WA)	McGovern
Clyburn	Hayes	McHenry
Coble	Hayworth	McHugh
Cole (OK)	Hefley	McKeon
Conaway	Hensarling	McKinney
Cooper	Herger	McMorris
Costa	Herseth	McNulty
Costello	Higgins	Meehan
Cramer	Hinojosa	Meeks (NY)
Crenshaw	Hobson	Melancon
Cuellar	Hoekstra	Mica
Culberson	Holt	Michaud
Cummings	Hooley	